

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 - 13 are pending and under consideration. In the Office Action of September 16, 2003, claims 1 and 3 - 13 were rejected. Claims 4-5 were objected to as having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation of "said one substrate." Claims 1, 3, 7-9 and 11-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. in view of Tokuo; claims 4-5 were rejected as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. in view of Tokuo, and further in view of Kojima; claim 6 was rejected under Yamada et al. in view of Tokuo, and further in view of Kume; and claim 10 was rejected under Yamada et al. in view of Tokuo, and further in view of Yamamoto. In addition, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Objection to Drawings:

Claim 12 has been amended to clarify that the "means for applying the electrical field comprises an electrode formed on each of the substrates, wherein the electrodes are facing each other with said liquid crystals in-between." Figure 2A-2C illustrate this feature, namely that the electrodes are facing each other with liquid crystals in-between.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants believe that the drawings comply with 37 CFR 1.83(a), and it is thus respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Objections:

Claims 4-5 have been amended to correct the antecedent basis problem identified by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objection to these claims be withdrawn.

§103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected each of the pending claims as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Tokuo alone, or further in view of either Kojima, Kume, and Yamamoto. The cited references generally disclose liquid crystals comprising a wall structure as an ASM

mode, i.e. axially symmetric micro cell mode. None of the cited references, however, teach a liquid crystal display comprising a groove structure *within a concave structure* of a first substrate adapted for adjusting axial symmetrical orientation of liquid crystals in cooperation with a wall structure *in the same first substrate*, as required by each of the claims. This novel feature has been more clearly recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

None of the Yamada, Kojima, Kume, or Yamamoto references teaches a groove structure formed within a concave structure. For example, the Examiner cites to the portion of Figure 1 labeled “2a” as the “groove” in the Yamada reference. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that this is not a “groove” as intended by the pending claims. This has been clarified as indicated in amended Claims 1 and 13.

Because none of the cited references (nor the conventional art) teach such an interrelated wall and groove structure with liquid crystals exploiting axial symmetrical orientation, nor is such a feature suggested by the cited or conventional art, independent claims 1 and 13 are both patentable.


Pending claims 3 - 12 dependent from independent claim 1. Thus, for the same reason claim 1 is patentable over the cited references as discussed above, these dependent claims are likewise patentable over these references.

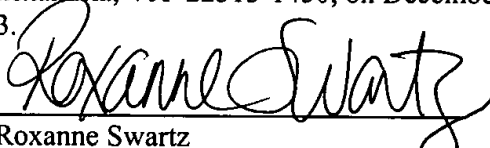
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 1 and 3 – 13 are patentable over the cited references. Further, all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been addressed herein. It is, therefore, submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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